

November 8, 2010

The Honorable George Cushingberry
Chairman, House Appropriations Committee
State Capital
Lansing, MI 48909

Subject: Support for Senate Bills 1484 and 1485

Dear Representative Cushingberry:

On behalf of Goodwill Industries of Greater Detroit, I am writing to you to express our support for Senate Bills 1484 and 1485 as well as urge your passage of this legislation prior to year's end. Senate Bills 1484 and 1485 provide a number of employment opportunities and benefits to Michigan citizens if enacted.

Goodwill Industries of Greater Detroit (GIGD) is widely recognized as one of Michigan's premier leaders in Social Enterprise. Goodwill has launched numerous successful business initiatives carefully designed to create employment opportunities for people who have disabilities and other barriers, including parolees. Our Empowerment programs such as "Flip the Script" have created new benchmarks in changing the lives of hundreds of people, in Southeast Michigan.

GIGD has been working with the Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC) for many years and is generally regarded as Southeast Michigan's leading provider of guidance, training and a source of actual employment for ex-offenders. Recent discussions have centered on possible partnerships based on two areas of legislative need:

One – the Prisoner Industries Enhancement Certification Program or PIECP; and
Two – the Reclamation program that began within Michigan State Industries

PIECP

First, this bill will open the door for the MDOC to expand the work of their correctional industries program, whether it is in textiles or other operations, by giving them the authority to be certified as a Prison Industries Enhancement Certification Program or PIECP. Across the United States, 43 other correctional jurisdictions have experienced positive benefits that include the following:

- It provides an employment opportunity for inmates to earn wages in order to meet financial obligations, increase or create job skills all of which increase the possibility of a parolee competing for a job upon re-entry into society.

It is because of this important proposition that MDOC believes there is a unique partnership opportunity for MDOC and Goodwill Industries of Greater Detroit's Green Works recycling center, which employs a great many ex-felons within its business.

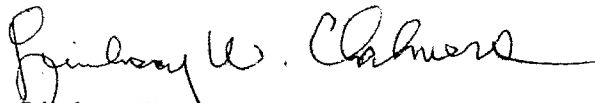
The adoption of reclamation language would:

- Create a first of its kind recycling initiative that may serve as a model to other state as well as local penal systems.
- Create a site to provide similar recycling opportunities for other manufacturers that do not have an outlet for reclaiming aged products.
- Create opportunities inside the prison system for new reclamation and recycling business models in Michigan.
- Create a market for the resale and repurposing of industrial materials that would otherwise be sent to Michigan landfills.
- Reduce the potential for leaching unknown contaminants to ground water.
- Reduce the potential release of unknown contaminants to air when waste is burned or incinerated.
- Create job skill training programs which will result in establishing an individual's work ethic, self discipline and personal responsibility.
- Create employment opportunities for inmates upon release which is the initial step toward self sufficiency.
- Showcases Michigan's private /public and non-profit collaboratives.
- Create a new industrial model that teaches and promotes environmentally responsible and economical self sustainment for both the individual and organization alike.

We commend you for sponsoring, supporting and moving this important legislation forward which will serve to provide many benefits to our citizens. We do ask that you add this very important Reclamation language and to push the legislation forward to the Governor's desk for signature.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Lindsay W. Chalmers
Vice President
Business Development
Marketing & Public Relations
Commercial Operations